

DDA Registry

78-0018/4

15 MAY 1978

Executive Registry

78-1391/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration
SUBJECT: Reactions to CIA Guest Speaker Lecture--
Dr. Theo Sommer

REFERENCE: Memo to DTR from [REDACTED] O/DCI, 25X1A
dated 8 May 1978, Subject: Theo Sommer's
Agency Address (ER 78-1391)

1. Action Requested. None. This memorandum responds to your two questions posed to [REDACTED] concerning the 19 April 1978 CIA Guest Speaker lecture by Dr. Theo Sommer:

a. Approximately how many attended Theo Sommer's address?

b. How was the address received?

2. Background

a. Between 250-275 attended Dr. Sommer's lecture, 30-35 from other agencies of the Intelligence Community.

b. A check with some of the CIA specialists on German or European affairs who attended indicates a very favorable response to the lecture. All gained the impression that the audience as a whole shared their good impression of Dr. Sommer's performance. The general understanding that Dr. Sommer is close to Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, heightened the interest in the lecture. One or two commented, in fact, that Dr. Sommer seemed to use the lecture as an opportunity to smooth the recently troubled waters between the United States and West Germany.

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All agreed that he is a brilliant and articulate speaker who inspired unusually good questions. The comment was made that the viewpoint he described as underlying the "Ostpolitik" is not often heard here, and Dr. Sommer's discussion was a contribution to our understanding.

Those who participated in the morning discussions with Dr. Sommer or in the luncheon hosted by Mr. Carlucci found opportunities for close-up exchange especially valuable.

The Guest Speaker Program has in view the impression we make on the speaker, as well as the speaker's on us. The reaction seems to be that he enjoyed his visit. We hope this is the case.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our appreciation to [REDACTED] for nominating Dr. Sommer for the program and to you for seconding it. At [REDACTED] request, a transcript of the lecture has been made and will be sent to you (and others in the Agency) shortly. A videotape is available in the OTR Self-Study Center in Room GJ-68, Headquarters.

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John F. Blake


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25X1A

ORIGINATOR:


Harry E. Fitzwater
Director of Training

DATE: 12 MAY 1978